GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2164
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2015
Flagship Programme for Agriculture Sector
Natterjee Shri J. Jayasingh Thiyagaraj

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NITI aayog in its meeting concerned about the absence of any flagship programme for the agriculture sector, which is constrained by high costs and low productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for the development of agriculture with the specific features for low costs with high productivity ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) MINISTRY OF
PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
RAO INDERJIT SINGH

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. The first meeting of Governing Council (GC) of NITI Aayog was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 08th February, 2015 in which issues concerning several sectors including agriculture were discussed. The GC inter alia decided to constitute a Task Force on Agricultural Development in NITI Aayog to suggest measures for rejuvenating agricultural development in the country. Similar task forces were also constituted in the States. The NITI Aayog's Task Force on Agricultural Development was assigned the task of co-ordinating and developing synergy with the central Ministries and State Governments' Task Forces and recommend strategies for re-invigorating agriculture in all its aspects.

(c) The Government has taken several initiatives for the development of agriculture and enhance productivity and profitability. The Prime Minister Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) has been launched with an allocation of Rs. 5300 crore during 2015-16. The PMKSY envisages minimum assured irrigation to all agricultural fields (HAR KHET KO PANI) and maximum output with every unit use of water (PER DROP MORE CROP). To provide better opportunities to farmers for marketing of their produce and earn more profit, the central sector Scheme on promotion of National Agricultural Market through Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) has been launched for transparent sale transactions and price discovery in regulated markets and Kisan mandis, etc. The soil health card scheme is under operation to economise the use of fertilizers and maintain soil fertility for higher crop productivity. To increase the profit and productivity in livestock sub-sector, Rashtriya Gokul Mission has been launched for conservation of indigenous cattle breeds and to sustain milk production.